# Sri Kalasheshwara Temple, Kalasa, Mudigere, Karnataka

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**Info under following headings**:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple  deities. Subdeities  daily rituals and poojas special poojas and rituals festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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**Location, Address, Phone, How to Get There**

Sri Kalasheshwara Temple is situated in the serene town of Kalasa, in Mudigere Taluk of Chikmagalur district, Karnataka, India.

It lies on the banks of the Bhadra River amidst the lush Western Ghats, at an elevation of about 831 meters, offering a picturesque setting surrounded by coffee plantations and hills.

**Address**: Kalasa Main Road, Kalasa, Chikmagalur, Karnataka.

**Phone**: Specific contact details for the temple administration are not widely listed online, but a general inquiry number associated with temple services is 080-2266-0000.

For accurate updates, it's recommended to reach out via local tourism offices or visit in person.

**How to Get There**:

**By Air**: The nearest airport is Mangalore International Airport (IXE), about 120 km away.

From there, hire a taxi or take a bus to Kalasa (journey time: 3-4 hours).

**By Train**: The closest railway stations are in Mangalore (110 km) or Udupi (around 100 km). From these, buses or taxis are available to Kalasa.

**By Road**: Kalasa is well-connected by state highways.
From Chikmagalur (90 km), drive via Mudigere-Kottigehara route through scenic plantations (about 2-3 hours).
From Bengaluru (310 km), take NH75 via Hassan and Chikmagalur (6-7 hours). Regular KSRTC buses run from major cities like Mangalore, Bengaluru, and Udupi.
The routes from Karkala-Kudremukh or Mudigere-Kottigehara are particularly scenic with mountain views.Private taxis or self-drive options are ideal for flexibility.

**Greatness of This Temple**

Sri Kalasheshwara Temple, often called "Dakshina Kashi" (Southern Kashi), is a revered Shiva shrine known for its spiritual significance and serene ambiance.

It is considered a swayambhu (self-manifested) linga, where Lord Shiva appeared in a kalasa (sacred pot) to bless devotees.

The temple's location on the Bhadra River enhances its sanctity, drawing pilgrims for its association with divine weddings and ancient sages.

It's praised for its calming atmosphere, making it a must-visit for spiritual seekers amid the Western Ghats.

Devotees believe bathing in the nearby sacred theerthas (water bodies) and offering prayers here grants blessings for prosperity and peace.

**Legends and History**

According to legends from the Skanda Purana, during the wedding of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati in the Himalayas, the earth's balance tilted northward due to the gathering of gods.

To restore equilibrium, Lord Shiva sent Sage Agastya south with a kalasa (pot) filled with water from all sacred rivers.

Agastya witnessed the divine wedding from this spot in Kalasa and installed the Shiva linga here.

Another legend states that gods Mitra and Varuna, enchanted by Urvashi, dropped lust drops into a pot, leading to Agastya's birth, linking the site to his tapas (penance).

Historically, the temple dates back to the Kalyani Chalukya period (1050-1200 CE), with inscriptions from 1154-1157 CE during Vidarbha King Srutha Bindu's reign.

It features Vijayanagara-style additions, reflecting influences from later empires.

**Architecture of Temple Deities**

The temple showcases traditional Dravidian and Vijayanagara architecture with intricate stone carvings, a gopuram (tower), and wooden elements in the main hall.

The sanctum features a star-shaped navaranga mantapa (hall) and detailed sculptures depicting mythological scenes.

The main deity is Lord Shiva as Kalasheshwara, a swayambhu Shiva linga shaped like a kalasa, symbolizing manifestation from a sacred pot. His consort is Goddess Parvati, worshipped as Sarvanga Sundari Ammanavaru, with her shrine in Vijayanagara style.

The structure includes a two-storied sanctum with bronze-polished roofs and idols of deities like Krishna, Rama, Durga, Ganapathy, Vishnu, and Narasimha.

**Subdeities**

Subdeities include two sannidhis (shrines) for Lord Ganesha, along with idols of Agastya (birthplace association), and other gods like Indra, Urvashi, Mitra, Varuna, and representations from Shaivite and Vaishnavite traditions.

The temple also honors sacred spots like Duggapan Katte for panoramic views.

**Daily Rituals and Poojas**

The temple opens daily from 7:30 AM to 8:30 PM (with a break from 1 PM to 3:30 PM on some days).

**Standard rituals** include morning and evening aartis, abhishekam (ritual bathing of the linga), and offerings to Shiva and Parvati.
Devotees can participate in simple poojas like archana.
The calm riverside setting aids meditation.

**Special Poojas and Rituals**

Special poojas include Girija Kalyana (reenacting Shiva-Parvati wedding), kalasa sthapan (sacred pot rituals), and offerings during auspicious days like Vasantha Panchami.

Rituals often involve the Bhadra River, such as theertha snana (holy dips). Attending these enhances spiritual experiences.

**Festivals**

**Major festivals** include Maha Shivaratri (15 days of celebrations starting Vasantha Panchami), Girija Kalyana (Shiva-Parvati marriage reenactment, typically post-Diwali), Kalasa Car Festival (Rathotsava or Jathre lasting 7 days with chariot processions), and Jatara.
These draw crowds with cultural programs and rituals.

**Facilities for Devotees (Like Accommodation,etc.)**

The temple offers basic facilities like clean premises, rest areas, and a viewpoint (Duggapan Katte).

No on-site accommodation or free meals are mentioned, but nearby options include homestays and lodges.

Devotees can use local eateries for prasadam-style food.

For stays, budget homestays like Mudra Midtown Suites are available nearby.

**Donation Info and Bank Acct Number Etc.**

Donation details are not explicitly listed in public sources for this temple.

Contributions can be made directly at the temple or through local trusts.

For verified bank details, contact the temple administration in person or via Karnataka tourism channels. Avoid unverified online transfers to prevent scams.

**Nearby Temples**

- Horanadu Annapoorneshwari Temple (8 km) – Dedicated to Goddess Annapurna.
- Chandranatha Jain Basadi (in Kalasa) – Ancient Jain temple.
- Girijamba Temple (in Kalasa) – Linked to Shiva-Parvati legends.
- Sri Subramanya Temple, Haluvalli (nearby).
- Rishyashringa Temple, Kigga (nearby).
- Basrikatte Janardana Swami Temple (near Horanadu).

**Other Tourist Attractions**

- Pancha Theerthas: Five sacred water bodies – Vasishta Theertha, Naga Theertha, Koti Theertha, Rudra Theertha, and Amba Theertha – ideal for holy dips and short treks (within 5 km).
- Kudremukh Peak and National Park (trekking, wildlife; 20-30 km).
- Hanuman Gundi Falls and Soormane Falls (scenic waterfalls; 5-10 km).
- Samse Tea Estate and Ganapati Temple (plantation views; nearby).
- Viewpoints like Maidadi, Rani Jhari, and Gatikallu (hilltop panoramas; 10-20 km).
- Hanging Bridge and Elanneru Falls (adventure spots; under 5 km).

**Nearby Budget Hotels**

- Budget options start from $13-25 per night, focusing on homestays and lodges:
- Mudra Midtown Suites and Rooms (in Kalasa; clean, basic amenities; ~$18-25).
- Nisarga Homestay (near temple; garden views; ~$13-20).
- Nature Valley Homestay (riverside; free breakfast; ~$15-22).
- Padmashree Lodge (basic stay; ~$18).
- Thangaali Homestay (excellent value; ~$20; praised for hospitality).
- Book via platforms like Booking.com or Agoda for deals; many include free WiFi and parking.

**Any Other Info**

Kalasa is also known for its Pancha Theerthas, believed to have healing properties.
The town is a gateway to trekking in Kudremukh and offers eco-tourism amid coffee estates.
Best visited during monsoons for lush greenery or festivals for cultural immersion.
Entry to the temple is free, but maintain decorum (no photography inside sanctum).
For safety, avoid isolated theerthas during rains.

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**Ref: Google Gemini**

Sri Kalasheshwara Temple, nestled in the Western Ghats of Karnataka, is a serene and spiritually vibrant destination often referred to as "Dakshina Kashi" (Kashi of the South).

**Location and Accessibility**

* **Address**: Kalasa Main Road, Kalasa, Mudigere Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District, Karnataka - 577124.

* **Phone**: +91-82632-74705 / 080-2266-0000.

* **How to Get There:**

* **By Road**: Well-connected by KSRTC and private buses from Mangaluru (approx. 110 km), Chikkamagaluru (approx. 92 km), and Bengaluru (approx. 310 km).

* **By Train**: The nearest railway stations are Kadur (130 km) and Mangaluru.

* **By Air**: Mangaluru International Airport is the closest.

**Greatness and Significance**

Kalasa is considered a holy town because it is home to one of the Panchakshetras (five sacred sites) on the banks of the Bhadra River. I

ts title as "Dakshina Kashi" stems from the belief that a pilgrimage here is as meritorious as one to Varanasi.

The temple is unique because the main Shiva Linga is shaped like a Kalasa (sacred pot).

**Legends and History**

* **Sage Agastya**: According to the Skanda Purana, during the divine wedding of Shiva and Parvati in the Himalayas, the earth tilted due to the weight of all the gathered gods.

Lord Shiva requested Sage Agastya to travel south to balance the earth.

Agastya was saddened to miss the wedding, so Shiva granted him a divine vision to witness the ceremony from Kalasa.

* **Historical Origin:** Inscriptions suggest the temple existed by 1154 CE. It was patronized by the Santara dynasty and later renovated by the Keladi and Karkala Nayakas in the 16th century.

**Architecture and Deities**

* **Architecture**: The temple showcases a mix of Hoysala and traditional Dravidian styles, featuring a prominent Gopuram and intricate stone carvings on the pillars.

* **Main Deity**: Lord Kalasheshwara (Lord Shiva) in the form of a Kalasa-shaped Linga.

* **Goddess**: Goddess Sarvanga Sundari (also known as Girijamba/Parvati) is the presiding female deity.

* **Sub-deities**: The complex houses shrines for Lord Ganesha, Lord Subramanya, and various local guardian deities.

**Rituals, Poojas, and Festivals**

**Daily Rituals**

The temple is generally open from 7:30 AM to 1:00 PM and 3:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

* Mangalarathi: 7:30 AM and Evening.

* Abhisheka: Performed daily (usually 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM).

* Annaprasadam: Traditional free meals are served to devotees daily.

**Special Poojas**

* Rudrabhisheka: Various forms (Ekavara, Ekadasha).
* Tulabhara: Devotees can weigh themselves against offerings.
* Mruthyunjaya Japa: For health and longevity.

**Major Festivals**

* **Girija Kalyana**: A grand 10-day celebration of the marriage of Shiva and Parvati (starts on Karthika Amavasya).

* **Kalasa Jathre (Car Festival):** The annual chariot festival attracting thousands of pilgrims.

* **Maha Shivaratri**: Celebrated with overnight vigils and special prayers.

**Facilities for Devotees**

* **Accommodation**: While the temple committee's direct room facilities are limited, there are several private lodges nearby.

* **Food**: Free noon meals (Annaprasadam) are provided at the temple.

* **Donations**: To donate or obtain official bank account details for Sevas,

it is highly recommended to contact the temple office directly at the phone numbers provided above to ensure security.

***Nearby Attractions***

**Temples**

- * Horanadu Annapoorneshwari Temple: A famous pilgrimage site just 8 km away.
- * Amba Teertha: One of the five sacred water bodies (Pancha Theertha) nearby.
- * Venkatramana Temple: Located within Kalasa town.

**Tourist Spots**

- * Bhadra River: Perfect for scenic views and ritual baths.
- * Kudremukh National Park: A paradise for trekkers and nature lovers (approx. 20 km).
- * Devaramane: A stunning viewpoint and trekking spot in Mudigere.

**Nearby Budget Hotels**

- * Sahyadri Lodge: Known for clean rooms and central location.
- * Mallya Residency: Good hospitality with an attached restaurant.
- * Hotel Bhavani: A reliable budget-friendly option for families.
- * Homestays: Kalasa is famous for estate-based homestays (e.g., Jalavaibhava Homestay, Kaapi Kaadu) which offer a local experience.

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**Since Kalasa and Horanadu are only about 8 km (20 minutes) apart, they are perfect for a combined trip. Here is a curated 2-Day Spiritual & Nature Itinerary starting from Kalasa.**

**2-Day Kalasa & Horanadu Pilgrimage Itinerary**

**Day 1: The "Dakshina Kashi" Experience**

* 08:00 AM – Arrival & Check-in: Arrive at Kalasa and check into your hotel/homestay.
* 09:30 AM – Sri Kalasheshwara Temple: Visit the main temple. Aim to be there for the morning rituals and the Abhisheka. Spend time admiring the Hoysala-style carvings.
* 11:30 AM – Amba Teertha: Drive or trek down to the Bhadra River (approx. 2 km from the temple). This is where the river flows through narrow rock formations. It's a peaceful spot for reflection.
* 01:00 PM – Annaprasadam: Return to the Kalasheshwara Temple for the traditional afternoon meal.
* 03:30 PM – local Exploration: Visit the Venkatramana Temple and the local spice markets. Kalasa is famous for fresh coffee, cardamom, and pepper.
* 06:00 PM – Sunset at Kyatanamakki: If you have a 4x4 vehicle (or hire a local jeep), head to Kyatanamakki Hill Station for a breathtaking sunset over the rolling hills.
* 08:00 PM – Dinner & Rest: Stay overnight in Kalasa.

**Day 2: The Blessings of Annapoorneshwari**

* 07:30 AM – Travel to Horanadu: A short, scenic 20-minute drive through coffee estates.
* 08:30 AM – Horanadu Annapoorneshwari Temple: This temple is dedicated to the Goddess of Food. The idol is covered in gold and is truly a sight to behold.
* **Note**: Traditional dress code (dhoti for men, saree/long skirt for women) is often preferred for inner sanctum entry.
* 12:30 PM – Maha Prasadam: Having lunch at Horanadu is considered a blessing. The temple serves thousands of devotees daily with immense grace.
* 03:00 PM – Tea Estate Visit: On your way back from Horanadu, stop at one of the roadside tea or coffee plantations for a walk and some photography.
* 05:00 PM – Departure: Begin your journey back to your home city or head toward Chikkamagaluru/Kudremukh if you are extending your trip.

Traveler Tips for this Route:

* **Transport**: Having your own vehicle or a hired taxi is best. The roads are winding (Ghat section), so drive carefully, especially during monsoon.

* **Clothing**: Even in summer, evenings can be cool. Carry a light sweater.
* **Photography**: Most temples strictly prohibit photography inside the inner sanctum. Please look for signage.

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**Photos**

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**Videos**

About Sri Kalasheshwara Temple (1.57 min):

https://youtu.be/HbhwKAmvXEA?si=4Ee9veYE_rNaMkei

Kalasheshwara Temple history etc (7 min):

https://youtu.be/ppx5X0yoi-c?si=nuuQj_T8yNpXhvWU

Kalasheshwara Temple - Parichaya (8 min):

https://youtu.be/kPNzYfxsNbM?si=_iVyVqT8iNUDsQUP

Sri Kalasheshwara temple  - Dharma degula darshana (6 min):

https://youtu.be/yW05ib24UH4?si=LGwymrKMUR99eG-6

Kalasheshwara Swamy Temple (6 min):

https://youtu.be/4pQZDS44gz8?si=s7QlHJipjJ1EwVO5

Kalasheshwara Temple - Dakshina Kadhi (6 min);

https://youtu.be/4x9_jA3ycmU?si=oq1qzLZtmdnw5YF4

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**Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**

**February 2, 2026**

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